



## DEPARTMENT OF ENVIRONMENTAL QUALITY

BOBBY JINDAL  
GOVERNOR

PEGGY M. HATCH  
SECRETARY

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**Contact:** Jean Kelly  
**Telephone:** 225-219-3966

### **DEQ sponsoring Open Burning Workshops in Shreveport and West Monroe and around the state**

**BATON ROUGE** – Recently, the statewide drought has brought attention to burning wood waste and also that there are environmental regulations against many types of burning. Once popular, burning leaves, limbs and trees is often against the law.

Burning and what you can and can't burn have been an issue all over the state. As a result, the Louisiana Department of Environmental Quality is sponsoring free workshops to assist fire departments, municipalities and the general public with understanding the air quality regulations concerning open burning. These workshops are free and will give a basic understanding of the regulations, as well as information about open burning do's and don'ts.

"These workshops are important for several reasons," said DEQ Secretary Peggy Hatch. "One, many times people are burning their wood waste and don't know they are breaking the law. Two, the air quality is the best it's been since the Clean Air Act of the 1970s. As the state strives for cleaner air, everyone must take steps to improve air quality. Incomplete combustion from open burning is terrible for air quality. It can lead to ozone formation and to higher levels of particulate matter. There's another health issue that is often overlooked when people burn. Many times, depending on what is thrown on the fire, people are releasing carcinogens into the air and don't even know it."

The first of these workshops are being held in the Shreveport and Monroe area. Everyone is invited to attend.

The workshops will be held:

#### **Shreveport**

Tuesday, July 19, 1 – 3 p.m.  
Mary Allen State Office Building, Room 34  
1525 Fairfield Ave., Shreveport

#### **West Monroe**

Wednesday, July 20, 10 a.m.-12 p.m.  
West Monroe Convention Center, Trenton Room  
901 Ridge Ave., West Monroe

Future workshops will be held in Mandeville, Lafayette, Pineville, Lake Charles, Houma and Baton Rouge. For more information, or to register, go to: [www.deq.louisiana.gov/portal/tabid/2601/Default.aspx](http://www.deq.louisiana.gov/portal/tabid/2601/Default.aspx) or contact Tomeka Prioleau at 225-219-0877.